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157

Roxbury, July 30, 1868.

My dear Tilton;

I thank you for your letter, enclosing the one sent to Oliver from Mr. Greeley.

I will try to comply with the request contained in the latter, but must wait until I am in better mental condition than just at the present time. For a week past I have been suffering from a severe attack of influenza, which seems reluctant to let go its hold.

Mr. Greeley suggests getting the names of "at least fifty leading, life-long Abolitionists" to the desired document. In the present divided state of feeling, I doubt whether half that number could be obtained of those who are well known to the country. Neither Phillips, nor Pillsbury, nor Foster, nor Whipple, nor any who affiliate with them, would join in any such movement. Probably Gerrit Smith, Samuel J. May,

Ms. A. 1.1 v. 7, p. 88B

v. 7 p. 88

Samuel F. May, Jr., Samuel E. Sewall, and Edmund Quincy would sign the paper.

Some colored names ought to be added - such as Douglass, Garnet, Bell, Wells Brown, Langston, &c, &c. Perhaps these had better send an appeal of their own. Of course, Purvis and Remond would have nothing to do with the matter.

There are so few of the freedmen who, in the nature of things, can know anything of the Abolitionists, that I am not quite sure it would amount to much if any number of names were appended to the paper proposed. Moreover, might not such names exasperate the rebel enemies of the freedmen, and stimulate them to the infliction of fresh outrages? It is worth considering whether a calm and simple statement per se, as to what is the political duty of the freedmen in the coming struggle, will not be sufficient.

You see that, since the Democratic nomination of Seymour and Blair, the South is becoming lurid as the bottomless pit.

Ms. A. 1. 1 v. 7, p. 88B

v7

p88

Treason is again full orb'd, and of a crimson dye. A tremendous crisis is at hand, and the powers of darkness are preparing to do their worst. Alas for the poor, unoffending, helpless freedmen! What a fiery ordeal they are to be called to pass through! And all this because of the perfidy of the incumbent at the White House, who was elected to obviate it all, and whose impeachment is still called for by justice, trumpet-tongued.

I agree with your leader in this week's Independent, in regarding the adjournment of Congress, even till September, as an extraordinary not to say criminal procedure, in view of all the circumstances.

I trust Oliver will return to his post rejuvenated by his excursion.

Faithfully yours,

Wm Lloyd Garrison

Theo. Tilton.

v7 p88

Ms. A.1.1 v.7, p.88B